Westland Helicopters

*9. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL:

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 637 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Hussainy Committee appointed for examining various operational safety aspects of Westland Helicopters has since submitted its report and if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC is incurring huge losses because of the grounding of these holicopters and whether Government have decided to make alternate arrangements to enable ONGC to pursue its work?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir. The report is under examination.

(b) ONGC has experienced difficulties in respect of crew movement to their off-shore installations. Pawan Hans is assisting the ONGC by redeploying Dauphin fleet and by operating additional hours thereon. ONGC have also been permitted to hire two S-61N helicopters from abroad for a period of three months.

Enforcement of Pharmacy Act

*10. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 insisting that 'no person other than registered Pharmicists shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine' came into force;

(b) whether it is a fact that this section is not being strictly enforced by the Central Government as yet; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are proposed to be taken for strict enforcement of this section throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 came into force from 1.9.1984, except in West Bengal where it was enforced w.e.f. 1.9.1986.

(b) and (c) The State Governments are responsible for the impelmentation of the provisions of Pharmacy Act, 1948 including Section 42 of the said Act, The Union Government has asked all States/Union Territory Governments to extend financial assistance to their respective State Councils so as to enable them to appoint inspectors who can strictly enforce the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1984 including section 42 of the said Act.

Cost and sale price of coal

*11. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 564 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1989 and state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to reduce the cost of production of coal; and

(b) how do these prices compare with international prices of coal in under-developed and developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Some of the major steps being taken to bring down the cost of production are as follows:—

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

(iii) The concept of "all men-all jobs" is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(v) Improvement in the availability and untilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

(b) The FOB prices of 1989 as indicated in one of the international marketing publications, are given below:

	In US $ per tonne	
	Coking Coal	Non-Coking
(a) Australia	50.40	37.10 to 39.73
(b) China	38.90 to 43.70	38.90
(c) S. Africa	N.A.	32.80–33.00
(d) Canada	50.50	N.A.
(e) U.S.S.R.	46.90	N.A.
(f) U.S.A.	48.22 to 52.85	N.A.
(g) Newzealand	55.25	N.A.
(h) India* (Weighted average price of raw Coal)	20.50 (Rs. 349.00)	13.30 (Rs. 226.00)

*Note: Indian coal is not comparable to most of the coal Traded in the international market, since it has less fuel value.

Impact on India of the fall in the prices of oil in the international market

*12. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact on India of the fall of prices of oil in the international market;

(b) how far it will help Government in managing the balance of payment position; and

(c) what is the quantum of crude and crude products likely to be imported during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Import of crude oil is made both under term contracts with national oil companies of producing countries as well as through purchases in the sport market. The prices under all the term contracts are also variable market related prices based on spot market Quotations of crudes which are heavily traded on the spot market. Advantage of any fall in the prices of oil